

Lake Oswego SC Recreational Soccer Team Formation Policy

Lake Oswego Soccer Club (LOSC) has been providing opportunities for Lake Oswego’s boys and girls to play soccer since 1974. From kindergarten through senior year in High School, from recreational leagues through competitive tournaments, over 2500 youth players participate every year.

You may or may not know it, but over the past several years, LOSC has been making adjustments and improvements to many aspects of our soccer programs, to provide an even better soccer experience for our young players. For example, one area where several changes have been made is in the number of players on the field at each age group. International studies show that the tendency is to push younger players into large sized games too early in their development. Too much emphasis is placed on game tactics, and not enough emphasis is placed on the development of skills. The national trend in soccer is toward smaller sized games at younger ages. Some of you with older children may remember the old days where we quickly transitioned to 6V6 at the 2nd grade level, and then moved to 11V11 as early as 5th grade. This year we will be adopting the following game sizes according to age group –

Age Group	Field Players	League Play
Kindergarten	3V3 x2 Co-Ed	Intra Lake Oswego
1 st Grade	3V3 x2 Boys, 3V3 x2 Girls	Intra Lake Oswego
2 nd Grade	4V4 x2 Boys, 4V4 x2 Girls	Intra Lake Oswego
3 rd Grade	6V6 Boys, 6V6 Girls	Intra Lake Oswego
4 th Grade	8V8 Boys, 8V8 Girls	Intra Lake Oswego
5 th Grade	8V8 Boys, 8V8 Girls	Soccer 5
6 th Grade	11V11 Boys, 11V11 Girls	Soccer 5
7 th Grade	11V11 Boys, 11V11 Girls	Soccer 5
8 th Grade	11V11 Boys, 11V11 Girls	Soccer 5
9 th /10 th Grade	11V11 Co-Ed	Soccer 5
11 th /12 th Grade	11V11 Co-Ed	Soccer 5

While we are certain that adopting a graduated increase in team size is providing a better opportunity for our players to learn and develop, the corresponding team roster sizes have made our current team formation policy unworkable. Note the appropriate team roster sizes below, change five time over the course of a youth soccer career –

Age Group	Field Players	Optimum Roster	Maximum Roster
Kindergarten	3V3 x2 Co-Ed	10 players	12 players
1 st Grade	3V3 x2 Co-Ed	10 players	12 players
2 nd Grade	4V4 x2 Boys, x2 4V4 Girls	12 players	14 players
3 rd Grade	6V6 Boys, 6V6 Girls	10 players	12 players
4 th Grade	8V8 Boys, 8V8 Girls	13 players	15 players
5 th Grade	8V8 Boys, 8V8 Girls	13 players	15 players
6 th Grade	11V11 Boys, 11V11 Girls	16 players	18 players
7 th Grade	11V11 Boys, 11V11 Girls	16 players	18 players
8 th Grade	11V11 Boys, 11V11 Girls	16 players	18 players
9 th /10 th Grade	11V11 Co-Ed	17 players	20 players
11 th /12 th Grade	11V11 Co-Ed	17 players	20 players

Dealing with the varying roster sizes, and transition from Co-ed to Boys/Girls and back to Co-ed, have made the past expectations of “keeping your team together” unrealistic at best, and undesirable in reality. While the staff at LOSC realizes that a large part of youth soccer is social in nature, we also realize that it is beneficial for youth soccer players to play with different players over the course of multiple years. In addition, you can imagine that it is just not possible to maintain the exact same team as it transitions from 10 to 12 to 10 to 13 to 16 and finally to 17 players. For example, look at the transition from 2nd grade to 3rd grade. It’s not really practical to keep the same team intact, while dropping from 12 players to 10 players. Therefore, beginning in the Fall of 2009, we are announcing a change in team formation policy that

will provide a gradual change from homogeneous elementary school teams in Kindergarten and 1st Grade to universal Lake Oswego teams in High School. Please see the new team formation guidelines below –

Age Group	Team Formation Goals
Kindergarten	Elementary School Based if there are enough players from each school
1 st Grade	Elementary School Based if there are enough players from each school
2 nd Grade	Mix of 1, 2, or 3 Elem Schools with no less than 4 players from each school
3 rd Grade	Mix of 1, 2, or 3 Elem Schools with no less than 4 players from each school
4 th Grade	Mix of 1, 2, or 3 Elem Schools with no less than 4 players from each school
5 th Grade	Junior High School Based
6 th Grade	Junior High School Based
7 th Grade	Junior High School Based
8 th Grade	Junior High School Based
9 th /10 th Grade	High School Based
11 th /12 th Grade	High School Based

In Kindergarten and 1st grade, given that girls and boys play on the same team, we are almost always able to create teams with all players from the same elementary school. Occasionally we have to combine players from two schools, when the numbers do not permit homogenous elementary school teams. But in most cases, we are able to accommodate the social aspect of the game, and keep girls and boys from the same elementary school together.

In 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades, we split the girls and boys into two separate leagues. And it has become increasingly difficult to maintain completely homogenous elementary school teams at these age groups. This year, we will begin combining players from 1, 2, or 3 elementary schools on each team. Our goal will be to place no fewer than 4 players from a school on a team, ensuring that each player has 3 or more teammates from the same elementary school on her/his team. Also, please note that every attempt will be made to group players by proximity. So it would be likely that a 2nd grade team might have 6 players from Oak Creek ES and 6 players from Lake Grove ES. But it would not be likely that a team would have 6 players from Rivergrove ES and 6 players from Riverdale ES.

In 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, we will now form teams by Junior High School. Players listing Waluga JHS, Rivergrove ES, Bryant ES, Palisades ES, Hallinan ES, and Our Lady of the Lake ES as their school, will be placed on teams together. Players listing Lake Oswego JHS, Oak Creek ES, Lake Grove ES, Upland ES, Forest Hills ES, and Riverdale ES/MS as their schools, will be placed on teams together.

In 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, we will continue to attempt to create Lake Oswego HS and Lakeridge HS based teams, and will make combined teams where appropriate, or dictated by numbers.

As the team sizes change from year to year, and the team formation goals change from year to year, the previous “please put me on the same team as last year” will no longer apply. The Age Group Coordinators (AGCs) have been instructed to follow the process outlined below –

Age Group	Team Formation Process
Kindergarten	Create teams of 10 based on Elementary School listed on registration form
1 st Grade	Maintain the same teams of 10 from last year, as best as possible
2 nd Grade	Remix teams of 12 with players from 1, 2, or 3 Elementary Schools
3 rd Grade	Remix teams of 10 with players from 1, 2, or 3 Elementary Schools
4 th Grade	Remix teams of 13 with players from 1, 2, or 3 Elementary Schools
5 th Grade	Maintain the same teams of 13 from last year, as best as possible
6 th Grade	Remix teams of 16 with players from 1, 2, or 3 Elementary Schools
7 th Grade	Maintain the same teams of 16 from last year, as best as possible
8 th Grade	Maintain the same teams of 16 from last year, as best as possible
9 th /10 th Grade	Create teams of 17 with players from the same HS if possible
11 th /12 th Grade	Maintain the same teams of 17, as best as possible

Age Group Coordinators will begin by assigning Head Coaches to each team. The Head Coach's child will be placed on that team, along with the two requested teammates of the Head Coach's child. Note that beginning this year, each player may only request two teammates, and in order to be considered, both players must reciprocally request each other. If more than two teammates are requested, only the first two will be considered. Next, the AGC will follow the Team Formation Process, using only the registrations completed, submitted, and paid on time. This bears repeating. Only registrations received on time will be considered during this process. All late registrations will be considered on a space-available basis, after all of the on-time registrations have been placed on teams. Late registrations will be processed in the exact order in which they are completed.

Questions & Answers

Q – My child plays soccer for social purposes, so I'd rather that he/she plays on "the same team" each year with the same players. Can you make an exception for us?

A – Sorry but no. We've been observing other youth sports in Lake Oswego, as well as youth soccer organizations in other towns, and they all remix teams on a regular basis. For example, Lake Oswego Little League, Pacer Junior Baseball, and Laker Junior Baseball each use a "tryout/evaluation" process every year, that is completely independent of elementary school attended, or last year's team. We believe that we've designed a graduated system that progresses from homogeneous elementary school based teams to multiple school based teams in stages, that allows the players to play with some players from "last year" as well as meet some new faces each year.

Q – I need to have my child placed on a specific team based on carpooling needs. If I don't like the initial assignment, can I request a change?

A – Sorry but no. When players from multiple elementary schools are placed on the same team, every effort is made to combine schools that are proximate, to minimize the distance to weekday practices.

Q – We just moved into Lake Oswego over the Summer, and registered as soon as we learned about LOSC. But our registration will technically be "late".

A – After we've assigned all of the on-time registrations to teams, we will process any new resident registration immediately. We will not remove a player who registered on-time registration from a team to make room, but we will do everything possible to assign a new resident to a team with teammates from the same school.

Q – I saw a team practicing at the park today, and I asked the coach if he/she had room for another player on the team. He/she said "yes", and furthermore, he/she said that he/she would really like my daughter/son on the team. So can we join the team?

A – The answer to this question is get your registration completed, submitted, and paid as soon as possible. And we will assign your child according to the order it is received with respect to all of the other late registrations. The coach you talked to has no idea how many other late registrations are currently in the queue, and we must deal with them in the order they are received. Plus, all of our coaches are instructed that they do not have the authority to accept or deny any players. It is completely up to the AGC for each age group to assign players. Of course, you may request this coach by name on your registration form. But there may be no spaces remaining by the time we get to your registration.

Q – I talked to the coach, and he/she said that he/she was willing/happy to take on an extra player (or two or three or four), even though it is over the maximum roster size. Can my son/daughter be placed on his/her team?

A – Sorry but no. While we realize that there is a large social aspect of soccer, it is not fair to the players who registered on time, to overload their roster, thus reducing their playing time. In most cases, there are other teams, actually in need of additional players. Thus putting your daughter/son on another team works out better for everyone. It's very important to let our AGC's create balanced teams, creating a good experience for everyone.